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# Friendswood Edition REPORTER NEWS

Your Independent Local News Source Since 1984

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 18

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

USPS 013362

50 CENTS

## Around Town

May 4

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day of Prayer will be May 4 from Noon to 1:00pm at Stevenson Park, 901 South Friendswood Dr. to pray together to the Lord. If you or someone you know would be willing to participate by reading scripture or praying for a topic on the program - please contact [steve.n.martin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:steve.n.martin@sbcglobal.net) or text 832-607-1734.

### SENIORS CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA

Senior citizens are invited to the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta to be held Thursday, May 4 from 11am to 1pm at the Friendswood Activity Center, 416 Morningside Dr. Food, drinks and a live mariachi band. There will also be a costume contest and a game of Loteria. For more information email [seniorprogram@friendswood.com](mailto:seniorprogram@friendswood.com).

May 5

### CONCERT IN THE PARK

Concert in the Park live performances begin May 5 with the Friendswood High School Jazz Band performing at 7pm in Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. All concerts are free and prizes given during intermission.

### BLOOD DRIVE AT LIBRARY

A blood drive will be held at Friendswood Library on Friday, May 5 from 1:30 to 5:00pm. Free t-shirt for donors. Visit [https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule](https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule) to schedule an appointment and use sponsor code: FPL1. For more information visit [www.commitforlife.org](http://www.commitforlife.org).

### DUCKS UNLIMITED BANQUET

Pearland, Friendswood, Alvin Ducks Unlimited Annual Dinner for Ducks will be held Saturday, May 5 at the KC Hall, 2320 Hatfield Road in Pearland. Live and silent auctions, raffles, door prizes, games plus dinner. Drinks and DU membership included with all tickets. \$60 Single, \$90 Couple, \$35 Greenwing. For more information call Keith Majors at 830-556-6273 or visit [www.pearlandducks.org](http://www.pearlandducks.org).

### ESL CONVERSATION CLASSES

The Friendswood Library offers ESL Conversation Classes every Friday from 3:30 to 5:00pm. The program is led by Vineet. No registration required. The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr.

May 6

### ROARING 20'S JUBILEE DANCE

Hanger Squares Dance Club will hold a Roaring 20's Jubilee Dance on Saturday, May 6 from 6 to 9pm. Lasagna Dinner is \$15 per person. Raffle, photo-ops, silent auction, and dessert. This is a fundraiser dinner/dance for the club. For more information go to [hangersquares.org](http://hangersquares.org). Jones Hangar is located at 901 Buckingham.

### YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Friendswood Parks & Rec Youth Fishing Derby is slated for Saturday, May 6 from 8am to 10am at Centennial Park, 2200 S. Friendswood Dr. Over 600 pounds of adult catfish will be stocked in the park pond for participants to catch, ages 16 and under. For more information call 281-996-3220.

### CERAMICS & CRAFT SHOW

Friendswood Library presents a Ceramics and Craft Show on Saturday, May 6 from 12pm to 4pm. Meet local artists and view their work through the library. The library is located at 416 S. Friendswood Dr. For more information visit [friendswood.lib.tx.us](http://friendswood.lib.tx.us).

### FARMERS MARKET

The next Farmers Market will be held Saturday, May 6 from 9am to 1pm at Stevenson Park, 1100 S. Friendswood Dr. Local vendors including baked goods, canned goods, candles, coffee, and much more. The market is held the first Saturday of each month (except January and July).

May 7

### PUG DOG RACES

Gimme A Bark and PugHearts of Houston Dog Rescue will hold pug dog races on Sunday, May 7 from 12 to 4pm at 103 Shadwell Lane in Friendswood. Bring cash and bet on your favorite pug! Any pug or pug-mix dog is eligible to race. For more information visit [www.pughearts.com](http://www.pughearts.com).

May 11

### PUPPY RAISING PROGRAM

Canine Companions will hold a Volunteer Puppy Raising program at Friendswood Library on Thursday, May 11 at 7pm. Volunteer puppy raisers provide Canine Companion puppies a safe home, take them to obedience classes, serve up a healthy diet, provide socialization opportunities and give lots of love. Canine Companions provides dogs to adults, children and veterans with disabilities and facility dogs to professionals working in healthcare, criminal justice and educational settings allowing clients and their dogs to live with greater independence.

## Mayor proclaims Jewish Heritage Month, honors city groups

By KAROLYN GEPHART

Reporter News Staff

Prior to the Friendswood City Council meeting May 1 at 6 pm, Mayor Mike Foreman presented a proclamation stating May is Jewish Heritage Month in Friendswood. A reception followed at City Hall.

The Council meeting began at 6 pm. The City of Friendswood was recognized before Council for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 budget.

The award represents a significant achievement by the City. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" by serving as 1) a policy document, 2) a financial plan, 3) an operations guide and 4) a communications device.

This is the twentieth consecutive year the City has received this award. This Distinguished Budget Presentation Award also comes with the special recognition for Special Strategic Goals and Strategies. This is only the second time in 20 years the City's budget document received a special recognition designation.

The following were recognized their



Susan Steinberg holds the proclamation citing Jewish Heritage Month in Friendswood. She is joined by Mayor Mike Foreman (left) and Councilmember Brent Erenwert (right).

efforts: Katina Hampton, Director of Administrative Services; Rhonda Bloskas, Deputy Director of Administrative Services - Finance; Emily Peltier, Budget Manager, and Andree Calhoun, Financial Analyst. Also recognized were the Budget Team, the Accounting staff, and the entire Administrative Services Department. Their cumulative efforts enabled the City to achieve this award.

The award is for the fiscal year which began Oct. 1, 2022.

The Mayor and Council also recognized and honored Keep Friendswood Beautiful (KFB) member Kaye Corey for being awarded the 2023 Keep Texas Beautiful OP

Schnabel Volunteer of the Year Award for her work to preserve and enhance Texas' environment and make their community stronger.

Corey will be honored at the KTB Annual Conference, which will take place in Houston from June 26 through June 28. A full list of winners and award descriptions, as well as information about the conference, can be found at [www.ktb.org](http://www.ktb.org) and <https://ktb.org/beautify-texas-awards/#winners/>.

The Director and Deputy Director of Information Technology were recognized at the meeting for their recent Cybersecurity efforts.

Technology Director, James O'Brien, was selected to join the Statewide Cybersecurity Strategic Plan review group. The current plan expires later this year. DIR is assembling a group of stakeholders to assist in the effort. The group consists of Statewide Information Security Advisory Committee (SISAC) and a few members from DIR's OCISO team. They requested someone from TAGITM and local government to also participate.

They will discuss the cybersecurity challenges they expect to see in the next five years and goals on how to tackle those challenges. They will also discuss strategies/methods to achieve those goals.

Another accomplishment by the IT team was made by IT Deputy Director, Jim Greenwood. He took advantage of the training opportunities to pursue his Security + certification and passed the test.

## Election Day information given at Council meeting

By KAROLYN GEPHART

Reporter News Staff

Election day information was shared with Council members at their meeting May 1 at City Hall.

The City of Friendswood General Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 6 from 7 am to 7 pm. The election is for the purpose of electing councilmembers for Position Nos. Two (2) and Five (5). The Election Day polling places are countywide. Voters may choose to vote at any designated voting center within the county in which they reside. Below are the polling places within the city limits of Friendswood.

Countywide voting centers in Galveston County for Friendswood voters include First Baptist Church, Club 56 Room in the Family Life Center at 202 Heritage Drive in Friendswood and the Friendswood Fire Station #1 Meeting room at 1610 Whitaker Drive in Friendswood.

For Harris County voters, the countywide voting center will be the Forest Bend Civic Center Building Meeting Room at 4300 Laura Leigh Lane in Friendswood.

The City Secretary's Office will be open on election day from 7 am to 7 pm to assist voters with their questions or concerns.

For more countywide polling locations in Galveston County visit <https://www.galvestonvotes.org/voter-information/polling-locations>. For Harris County visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com).



## SAFE AT THE PAY STATION

Friendswood's Kira Sarabia scores before the throw to Goose Creek Memorial catcher Nevaeh Arismendez as the Lady Mustangs beat the Lady Patriots 10-0 in the second game of the best-of-three series. Friendswood took the series opener 7-0 to sweep the series and advance to the Class 5A Region III area round. The No. 9 state-ranked Lady Mustangs (22-9) will face Lamar Consolidated on Friday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Shadow Creek HS in a one-game playoff in the Class 5A Region III area round.

## Downtown has new flora, fauna mural

One Sixty One is proud to present the second mural of the development's public art project. An Emily Ding original located at 306 S. Friendswood Dr. depicts a beautiful scene of Texas flowers and wildlife.

Ding is an internationally renowned muralist who has done art installations all around the world. She draws inspiration from flora, fauna, and human temperament.

Her large-scale work is characterized by expressive animals and figures, which come to life through bold color gradients and a fluid, painterly style. Resonating deeply with the phenomena of the natural world, she aims to communicate emotions and expe-

riences, through storytelling with wild creatures and people.

She grew up in the Friendswood area and attended

Clear Springs High School. <https://www.emilyding.art>

Local artist Sara Peters is the project's art curator and coordina-

tor for the development.

One Sixty One has more mural installations in the planning stages. The next one will be located at 214 S. Friendswood Dr.

These murals represent One Sixty One / Banfield Properties' commitment and vision to bring more art, color, and beauty into the Downtown District.

One Sixty One is a Downtown Friendswood premier mixed-use development / re-development anchored by a 30-room boutique hotel with residences, restaurants, retail, banquet rooms, collaborative spaces, and a green roof top experience.

To see more of the work of Emily Ding, visit <https://www.emilyding.art>.





# AREA BRIEFS

## 'Tiny Art Show' set this summer

An art exhibit on a tiny scale is among summer programming planned at the West Pearland Library.

Library patrons age 19 and up are invited to take pick up a 3-by-3 blank canvas from the second floor Help Desk and create a work of art based on the theme, "All Together Now."

Art can be created at home and must be dropped off before May 22 with the artist's email address on the back. Art will be on exhibit this summer. The West Pearland library is located at 11801 Shadow Creek Parkway. For more information, call 713-436-0995 or email [theresah@bcls.lb.tx.us](mailto:theresah@bcls.lb.tx.us).

## Concerts in the Park opens Friday

The annual Concerts in the Park series opens this Friday at Southdown Park, 2150 Countryplace Parkway with a 7 p.m. show by Queen of Tejano and Latin Tribute.

Admission is free and guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnics. Pets must be on a leash, and glass and smoking are prohibited in the park.

Weather-related updates will be posted on the city website, [parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/concerts-in-the-park](http://parks.pearlandtx.gov/special-events/concerts-in-the-park) or on the event hotline, 281-412-8989.

For more information, email [events@pearlandtx.gov](mailto:events@pearlandtx.gov).

## Signups open for adult softball

Registration is open for teams or individuals interested in the city Parks and Recreation Department's Adult Softball League, which begins play the week of June 4.

A men's league will complete on Mondays from 6 to 10 p.m., and a co-ed league will play from 6 to 10 p.m. on Fridays.

Players must up 18 or older. Registration is \$235 per team and includes the 10-game regular season plus a single elimination playoff.

More information and registration is available at [Pearlandparks.com](http://Pearlandparks.com).

## National Hurricane Preparedness Week

This week is National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

All week the City of Friendswood on their Facebook page are listing resources on how to:

- prepare NOW before hurricane season starts.
  - Develop an evacuation plan: [www.ready.gov/evacuation](http://www.ready.gov/evacuation).
  - Assemble disaster supplies: [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit).
  - Get an insurance checkup: [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).
  - Create a communication plan: [www.ready.gov/plan](http://www.ready.gov/plan).
  - Strengthen Your Home: <https://youtu.be/NykjdRaYLxg>.
- Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

## Reminders issued as summer nears

Texas Parks and Wildlife this month issued a list of safety tips ahead of the summer boating season.

Texas law requires that a Coast Guard-approved life jacket be available for each occupant of a boat. Children under 13 are required to wear a life jacket while the boat is underway or drifting.

Boating accidents in Texas waters accounted for 207 accidents and 36 fatalities in 2022, according to TPWD.

"In 2022, there were 20 percent more boating accidents than before the pandemic," said Texas Game Warden assistant commander for Marine Enforcement Cody Jones. "Accidents happen quickly and unexpectedly, so my biggest piece of advice is stay aware of your surroundings."

Key safety tips are wearing a life jacket, use an ignition cutoff switch and swim safely, meaning only in designated areas, never alone and only while hydrated and sober.

"Life jackets are one of the easiest, most accessible tools to prevent fatalities," Jones said. "If an accident occurs, it is unlikely you will have time to find a life jacket and secure it properly, so it's best to wear one at all times when on the water."

## Boat turn-in program scheduled

A free turn-in program for inoperable boats will be May 30 through June 3 at the Clear Lake Park Community Center parking lot, 5002 NASA Road 1 in Seabrook.

Hosted by Texas Parks and Wildlife and Harris County, the event is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. all five days and is free of charge for anyone wanting to dispose of an inoperable vessel. The state sponsors the removal of fuel, oil and batteries and Parks and Wildlife verifies ownership and clears vessels for disposal.

For information, call 713-274-2222.

## Lineup announced for country showcase

The Pearland Country Music Showcase is planned for June 25 in the open air pavilion at the Pearland Town Center. The event is 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the center, 11200 Broadway.

Coolers and lawn chairs are welcome at the outdoor event featuring headliner Britt Godwin, a Bridge City, Texas, native now based in Beaumont. Godwin has been featured on the Grand Ole Opry, Louisiana Hayride, David Letterman Show and Charlie Pruitt Country Music Show and previously performed with the B.B. & Company band. Other performers include Shalane, Ellie Townley, Zac Clifton, Allie Rae and Blair Kudelka.

For more information, go to [VisitPearland.com/CountryMusicShowcase](http://VisitPearland.com/CountryMusicShowcase).

## Wildlife photo contest underway

Keep Friendswood Beautiful Photo Contest is underway and will run through May 12.

Entries will be accepted using the Keep Friendswood Beautiful Facebook page. The page will have photo content, community updates and uploading requirements for the contest entries. Take a photo of wildlife inside Friendswood City limits. Wildlife is any living creature that is not domesticated. Wildlife mammals (such as deer, squirrels, opossums, etc) as well as birds, insects, reptiles and amphibians are acceptable. No photos of pets please. Wildlife photo must be taken inside the city.

Instructions for the contest include the following:

- Make sure to LIKE the Keep Friendswood Beautiful Facebook.
- Submit your photo in a comment on the Keep Friendswood Beautiful Facebook.
- Make sure to hashtag #FriendswoodProud

Release forms can be completed online at [friendswood.com/photo](http://friendswood.com/photo). Release forms must be submitted by 5/12/23. Photos without a release form will not be considered for the contest.

Winners can receive up to \$800 in prizes.

For contest tips and release form, visit [www.friendswood.com/photo](http://www.friendswood.com/photo).



Pictured left to right: Aden Pugsley, Ava Michael, Govind Rangappa, Ganesh Venu, Daniel Chen, Brendan Larson, Nicole McGill, Maryam Faisal, Zoe Wyrick, Asiya Siddiqi, Sophie Kester, and Mayor Mike Foreman.

# Top 10 graduates of Friendswood High School honored at luncheon

On Thursday, April 26, the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce held its annual luncheon to honor the Top 10 graduates of Friendswood High School. The event was held at [venue] and was attended by representatives from the Friendswood Independent School District (FISD), the Chamber of Commerce, and members of the community.

The Top 10 graduates were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements, leadership, and community involvement. The luncheon provided an opportunity for the Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the accomplishments of these exceptional students and to showcase the strong partnership between FISD and the business community.

Superintendent of Friendswood ISD Thad Roher commented, "We are very proud of our Top 10 graduates and their exceptional achievements. Their academic success is a testament to the quality of education they received at Friendswood High School and the dedication of our outstanding educators. We are grateful to the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the hard work and dedication of these exceptional students."

Valedictorian for the Class of 2023 is Ganesh Venu. He will be attending Stanford University this fall to major in Bioengineering. During his time at FHS, Venu was involved with Varsity Tennis, Debate, Science Fair and NHS.

Asiya Siddiqi is the FHS Salutatorian. She will attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Neuroscience. Siddiqi's involvements include NHS President, Class of 2023 President, Student Council Vice President, National Spanish Honors Society Vice President, National English Honors Society, Spanish Club, Music Appreciation Club, Girl Scout Troop 08651, the Houston Hunger Truck Volunteer Coordinator, Principal's Round Table, ISM Science Researcher and Spanish Class Volunteer Teacher at Bales

Maryam Faisal is third in the Top 10. She plans to pursue a major in Neuroscience at Rice University. Faisal is a member of NHS, Math and Science Club, Recycling Club, Debate and UIL Spelling.

Fourth ranked is Daniel Chen. He plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in Computer Science. Chen is a member of the Mighty Mustang Marching Band, Academic Decathlon and NHS.

Govind Rangappa finished fifth in his graduating class. Rangappa will attend the University of Texas at Dallas and study Computer Science. He is a member of the Varsity Tennis Team, Asian Culture Club, Math and Probability Club, Indian Classical Music and serves as an assistant coach with Be Someone Sports.

Brendan Larson is sixth in the Top 10. He plans to attend Texas A&M and major in Computer Science in the Engineering Honors College. Larson is a member of the symphonic and marching bands, Aerospace Appreciation Club, NHS, Recycling Club and First Baptist Friendswood Church.

Seventh ranked is Ava Michael. She will study Business at the University of Mississippi. She is a member of the FHS Cheer Team, PALS, NHS and NSHS.

Nicole McGill is ranked eighth. She plans to attend Emory University and major in Neuroscience and Behavioral Science. McGill is a drum major in the Mighty Mustang Band, a member of NHS, NEHS, Math and Science Club, HOSA, FHS Musical Pit Band and volunteers with Paws Fur a Cause.

Ninth ranked is Aden Pugsley. She plans to attend Rice University and major in Astrophysics. Pugsley is a section leader in the Mighty Mustang Band, a member of NHS, NSHS and the FHS Musical Pit Band, and volunteers with Paws Fur a Cause and 3 Little Pitties.

Sophie Kester is ranked tenth in the FHS class of 2023. She plans to study Physics at the University of Texas at Austin. Kester is a pediatric volunteer at UTMB, member of Debate Team, Student Council, NHS, NEHS and President of Music Appreciation Club.

Additionally, senior Zoe Wyrick was honored with a \$1000 scholarship from the Chamber.

The Friendswood Chamber of Commerce has a long-standing tradition of supporting education and fostering partnerships between the business community and FISD. The annual luncheon is just one example of the Chamber's commitment to recognizing and supporting the achievements of outstanding students in the community.

For more information visit [myfisd.com](http://myfisd.com).



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# SPORTS

## From the Cluttered Desk

by Dr. David Davis

### Teenage Virus

If you have a computer or a phone — you are quite familiar with a virus or a threat of a virus.

Quite frankly, I have enough problems without worrying about someone across the globe infecting my computer. Usually, the evil is hidden in a message that arouses our curiosity — like — you just won one million dollars — open to claim your money.

People are so anxious to receive the money that they quickly open the message, only to find themselves infected with something awful. (Somewhere in that last line lies a message for your teenager).

Teenage viruses can be just as dangerous as the computer kind. If your teenagers become infected, your best approach is to quarantine them and surround them with love. Here are the current versions:

**The Teenage Disney Virus:** When this virus attacks, teens get Goofy. One moment, they sound like an adult; next, they switch back to their pre-adolescent days of nonsensical laughter and jerky body movements. This incurable virus strikes when you least expect it. The best thing to do is to walk away from the infected teenagers, acting as though you have never met them.

**The Teenage Hard Drive Virus:** This virus attacks young people soon after they receive that magical piece of paper legally unleashing them upon society. Males are most prone to this virus, but females are not immune. It primarily affects the foot, causing it to get heavier. At the same time, a feeling of power sweeps over the afflicted teen. A teenager struck by this dangerous virus will drive hard and crash . . . unless maturity intervenes. Sadly, this virus tends to repeat itself.

**The Teenage Mall Virus:** This virus causes your teenager to leave his or her domicile and look for a large building containing other infected teenagers. They know when and where to find each other. After several meet, they wander aimlessly, trying to make contact with other, similar groups. When this virus strikes, your teen will whine about “needing to get out of the house.”

**The Teenage Soft-Wear Virus:** This virus targets mostly females. Whatever they buy today will be obsolete tomorrow. This virus causes a great desire to look like...other teenagers. It was responsible for bell-bottoms, miniskirts and other unspeakable things during the 1960s. It replicates every few months. A newer and more devastating strain caused the outbreak of body piercing and tattooing.

**The Teenage Reboot Virus:** This occurs when you try to communicate with teens. The audio file gets corrupted en route, so the teens hear only half of what you say. For example, you tell them, “Go to the store and get some milk.” They go to the store, meet their friends, buy some “Red Bull” energy drink, and come home with . . . no milk. When you ask, “Where is the milk?” they look at you quizzically, as if to say, “What are you talking about?” They heard “Go to the store,” but the “get some milk” somehow failed to download. This is when you need to . . . reboot.

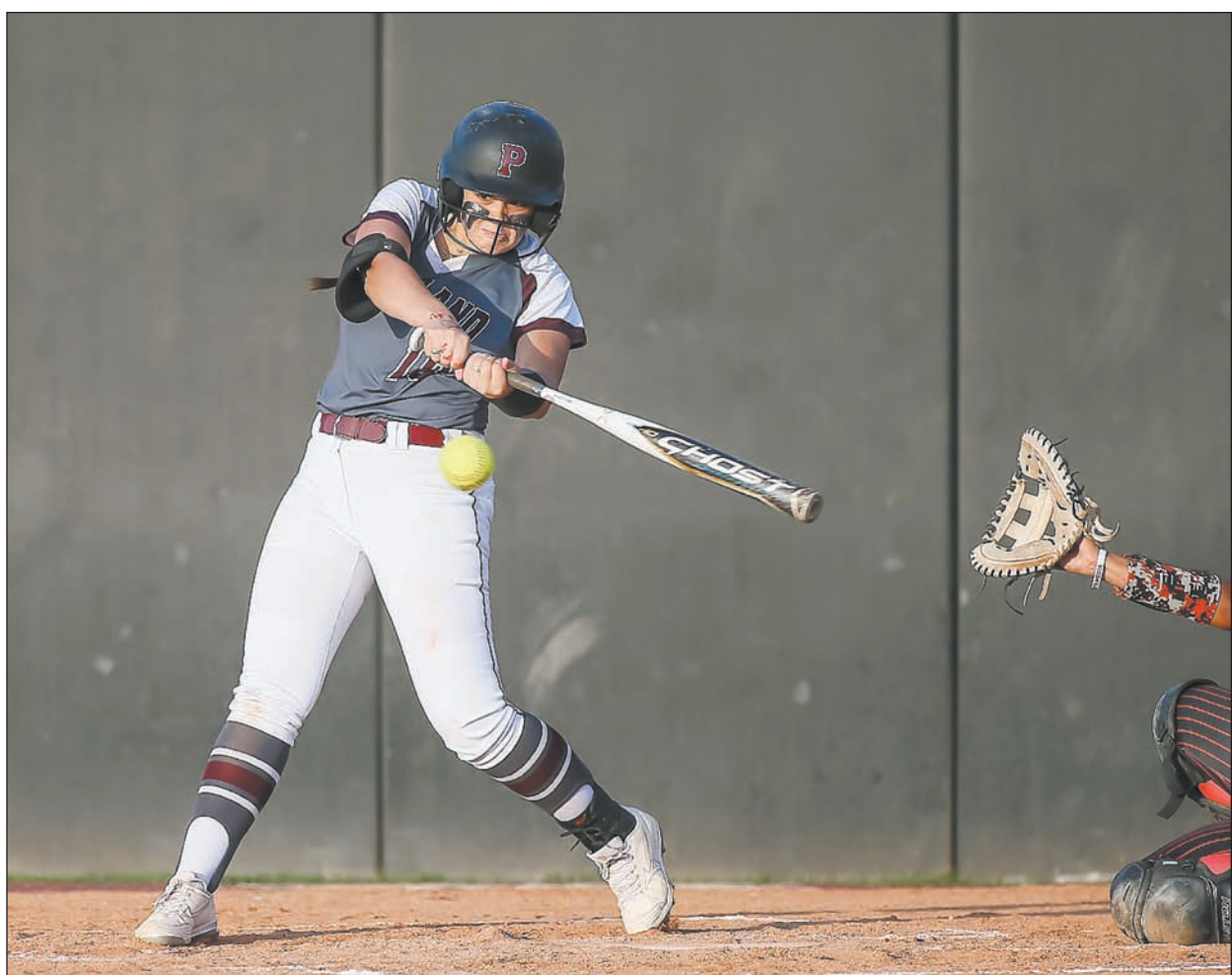
No matter which virus your teenager has, be confident the Master programmer is in control. He is running His debugging program even as you read these warnings!

Old friend Robert said, “Laughter is the best medicine.” It not only lightens your kid’s day but also brings you closer to them. Laughter is one way to make your place in your kid’s teenage world.” E-mail: [drdavidavis@yahoo.com](mailto:drdavidavis@yahoo.com) [www.reporternewsports.com](http://www.reporternewsports.com) Twitter: @drdavis111

## CLUTCH HITTER

**Pearland senior outfielder Darian DeLeon swings for a hit vs Clear Brook. DeLeon was instrumental in the 4-0 shutout, going two-for-three with one RBI at the plate. Pearland finished off Clear Brook in just two games for the first-round playoff win. The No. 6 Lady Oilers advance to the Class 6A Region III area-round.**

Photo by Lloyd Hendricks



## No. 6 state-ranked Lady O's sweep Lady Wolverines 13-3, 4-0

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

The Class 6A Region III softball playoffs are underway, and the Pearland Lady Oilers quickly eliminated the Clear Brook Lady Wolverines in a best-of-three series 13-3 and 4-0.

Pearland won the District 23-6A crown this season while Clear Brook was the No. 4 seed from District 24-6A. The Lady Oilers set the tone in the opener of the three-game series with a 13-3 win that ended in the fifth inning when the 10-run mercy rule went into effect to end the game.

Senior pitcher Abigail Gutierrez started in the pitching circle to get the win for Pearland as she allowed three hits, no runs in four innings while striking out four. Junior Carly Carpenter and sophomore Isela Flores closed out the final frame as Clear Brook managed three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning after trailing 13-0.

The Lady Oilers score four runs in the open-

ing frame, two runs in the second, four runs in the third, two in the fourth and one in the fifth for the 13-0 advantage.

Leading hitters for Pearland were: Hailey Golden (3-for-4, 3 runs), Kaylee Schweitzer (3-for-4, 2 runs, 3 RBIs), Kennedy Drafton (2-for-3, 1 run, 3 RBIs), Kristyn Whitlock (2-for-3, 1 run, 4 RBIs), and Darian DeLeon (2-for-3, 2 runs, 2 RBIs).

### PEARLAND 4 - CLEAR BROOK 0

Pearland advances to the Class 6A Region III area round after blanking Clear Brook in a sweep of their best-of-three series.

Pearland senior pitcher Abigail Gutierrez tossed a four-hitter while striking out two as the Lady Oilers (31-3) move on to face the winner of the Pasadena Dobie-Summer Creek series.

Sophomore Kaylee Schweitzer hit a one-out single while senior shortstop Kristyn Whitlock ripped a run-scoring double to right-center field.

Pearland widened the lead to 2-0 in the second inning on an RBI-single from senior right fielder Darian DeLeon.

The Lady Oilers would plate two more runs in the sixth inning after Whitlock reached on an error and junior catcher Trinity Perry was hit by a pitch.

Pearland eventually moved two runners into scoring position, and both scored on pinch hitter Laila Nobles' dropped fly ball to left field to make the score 4-0.

Lady Oilers head coach Laneigh Clark was glad to see her defense respond with Gutierrez pitching.

“We take a lot of pride in our defense,” Clark said. “We turned two double plays, and Kennedy Drafton had a great night at second base.”

“Raenna (Liscano) also made several nice plays at third.”

Pearland (32-3) posted their 12th consecutive win and will advance to the 6A Region III area round.

## Lady Mustangs sweep GC Memorial 7-0, 10-0 in first round

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

Friendswood set the tone of the Class 5A Region III bi-district contest with three runs in the opening frame that would lead to a 7-0 win in the best-of-three series against Goose Creek Memorial.

Baileigh Burtis opened the game with a walk, followed by Nevaeh Cason who lined out to the shortstop for the first out. Charleigh Esparza promptly stepped up to the plate and sent a 2-1 pitch over the left field fence for a 2-0 lead.

After Esparza's home run, Janelle Wilson sent a rocket shot on the next pitch over the center-field wall for a 3-0 advantage.

“I thought we started off early, swinging the bats really well,” said Christa Williams, the Lady Mustangs head coach. “I just felt like we had a good approach, so that was the main thing I saw tonight.”

“The energy was good from the jump and we just came out and took care of business.”

Esparza, who finished with three extra-base hits, gave Friendswood another run in the third when she doubled home Nevaeh Cason, who led off with an infield single and stole second to get into scoring position.

In the fourth, Esparza was hit by a pitch to open the frame. Courtesy runner Julia Hopkins later came home on Chloe Aldrich's two-out RBI single, her second hit of the contest.

In the sixth, Kira Sarabia opened with a long double off the left-field wall. Lola Widner, the No. 9 hitter, then reached on an error by GCM center fielder Kate

Strawn, pushing Sarabia across the plate.

One batter later, after Lola Widner advanced to third on a passed ball, Baileigh Burtis brought her home with a run-scoring fly ball to post the 7-0 final score.

Janelle Wilson kept the Lady Patriots (13-13-2) in check for seven innings, allowing only a fourth-inning single while strik-

ing out 12, including all three Lady Patriot batters in the bottom of the seventh.

“Overall, I’m happy with the way we played,” Williams said. “Janelle’s just Janelle. Studly. I just don’t have any words for her. She’s really, really blossomed this year. She’s always been good, but she’s really put this team on her back and done an amazing job as a leader.”



**STRONG PITCHING PERFORMANCE** - Janelle Wilson kept the GC Memorial Lady Patriots (13-13-2) in check for seven innings, allowing only a fourth-inning single while striking out 12, including all three Lady Patriot batters in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Lady Mustangs (22-9) advance to the 5A Region III area round to face Lamar Consolidated on Friday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Shadow Creek HS in a one-game playoff.

### FRIENDSWOOD 10 - GC MEMORIAL 0

Baileigh Burtis and Nevaeh Cason put the double whammy on Goose Creek Memorial to lead the Lady Mustangs to a 10-0 mercy-rule playoff win.

Burtis was 4-for-4 at the plate including four doubles with three runs scored and one RBI while Cason was 3-for-4 with a pair of runs scored and two RBIs as the first two batters in the Friendswood lineup.

“When they’re clicking we’re tough,” said head coach Christa Williams, whose club will enter next week’s area round at 23-9. “Nevaeh, Burt . . . they’ve led us all year and they’re doing it right.”

The Lady Mustangs scored three runs in the first frame, five runs in the second inning and closed out the game with two more in the fifth that ended the game with the 10-run mercy rule.

Charleigh Esparza, the hard-hitting sophomore catcher, one-hopped the left-field wall and drove in Burtis and Cason with a double in the first and added a line drive RBI single in the second, finishing with six RBI in two games.

Lainie Schaefer knocked in a pair of runs with a groundout and a single while Chloe Aldrich added a run-scoring single.

“They just hit the ball really well and really hard,” Williams said of her lineup. “Charleigh Esparza was on fire the entire series. To be honest I feel like our whole team has really turned a corner here.”

“They’ve worked really, really hard and so it’s nice to see it all start to click a little bit.”

# SPORTS

## BASE HIT

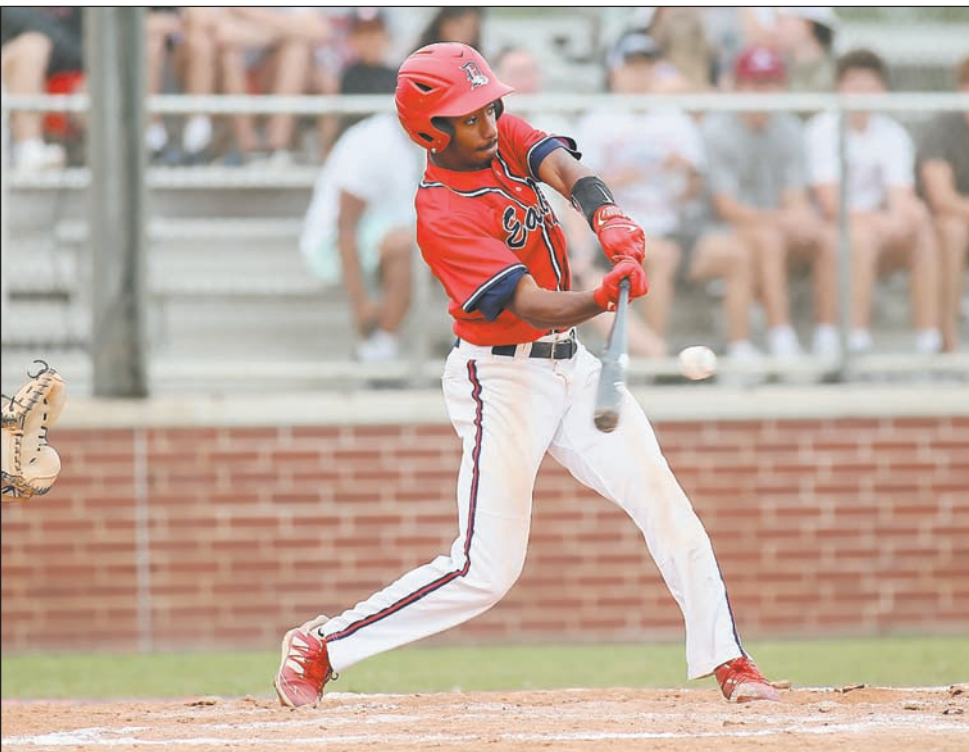


Photo by Lloyd Hendricks  
Dawson junior outfielder Gabriel McFarland gets a base hit vs Alvin. McFarland finished the game 3-for-3 with a walk and a run scored but it wasn't enough as Alvin took the win 5-4 over the Eagles. Despite the loss Dawson secured the final playoff spot in District 23-6A.



DEREK PARISH Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

## Former Pearland standout Derek Parish drafted by Jaguars

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

Derek Parish, a key member of the Cougars' defensive line the past two seasons, was drafted in the seventh round by the Jacksonville Jaguars. He will move to fullback with Jacksonville.

As an All-District first-team pick for the Oilers, he went on to have a banner career with the Houston Cougars.

Parish was off to the best start of his career last season with five sacks and 8 1/2 tackles for loss before suffering a season-ending biceps injury in Week 4 against Rice.

He set the AAC single-game record with 4 1/2 sacks in a double-overtime loss to Texas Tech.

Parish, who is 6-2 and 245 pounds, was used sparingly in the backfield at UH. He played fullback almost exclusively at the Shrine Bowl, impressing NFL evaluators as a blocker and a receiver. He could eventually be a two-way player in the NFL.

Parish was the recipient of the East-West Shrine Bowl® Pat Tillman Award which is presented to a player who best exemplifies character, intelligence, sportsmanship and service.



HEADED TO STATE: Friendswood girls golf team (left to right) Kamden Estlinbaum, Mary Scheschuk, Mary Kerr, Abby Permenter and Trinity Bosley will compete at the state golf tournament in Georgetown.

## Friendswood girls golf team state bound

By DR. DAVID DAVIS  
Reporter News Staff

The Friendswood Lady Mustangs golf team placed third at the region golf tournament which will send them to the 5A state golf tournament in Georgetown. It has been 33 years since the last Friendswood girls golf team qualified for state.

"We probably played our best tournament of the year," said Friendswood head golf coach Scott Smith, who also noted the team won the five of the nine tournaments they played in leading up to regionals, including the district tournament and a number of Class 6A-heavy tournaments.

"They're really close," Smith said. "They hold each other accountable, they're really

competitive."

Making up the Friendswood team includes junior Mary Kerr, sophomore Trinity Bosely, senior Kamden Estlinbaum, junior Abby Permenter and sophomore Mary Scheschuk.

Kerr will be making a return to the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown after qualifying as an individual last year, and she once again led the team at regionals this season, carding scores of 75 and 73 to finish second place as an individual on the leaderboard.

The Class 5A UIL Girls Golf State Tournament is slated for May 15-16 at the White Wing Golf Club in Georgetown.

## BLAST TO NEVER-NEVER LAND!

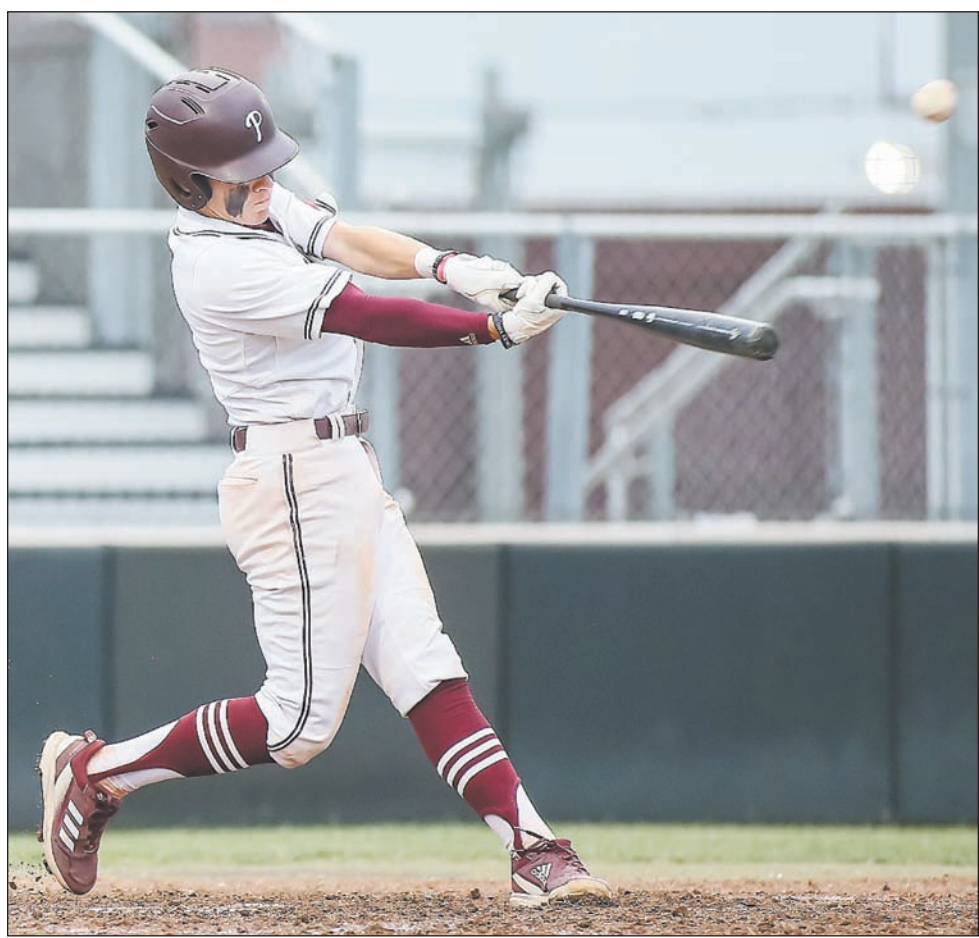


Photo by Lloyd Hendricks

Pearland senior second baseman Braeden Morse rips a home run in the fourth inning vs Alief Hastings. The solo shot capped off another impressive performance by the Oilers in an 18-0 victory over the Bears. The No. 1 state-ranked Oilers advance to the post-season starting this week.

## • SOFTBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE •

### Class 6A Region III Area Round

**PEARLAND LADY OILERS vs Summer Creek Lady Bulldogs**

Game 1 - Wed. 5/3 @ PHS - 6:30 p.m.  
Game 2 - Thu. 5/4 @ Summer Creek - 6:30 p.m.  
Game 3 - Fri. 5/5 @ Clear Lake HS - 6:30 p.m.  
(if necessary)

**DAWSON LADY EAGLES vs Atascocita Lady Eagles**

Game 1 - Wed. 5/3 @ DHS - 6:00 p.m.  
Game 2 - Thu. 5/4 @ Atascocita - 6:00 p.m.  
Game 3 - Fri. 5/5 @ GC Memorial HS - 6:00 p.m.  
(if needed)

**FRIENDSWOOD LADY MUSTANGS vs Lamar Consolidated Lady Mustangs**  
One game playoff - Fri. 5/5 @ Shadow Creek HS - 6:30 p.m.

## • BASEBALL PLAYOFF SCHEDULE •

### Class 6A Region III Bi-District Round

**PEARLAND OILERS vs Brazoswood Buccaneers**

Fri. 5/5 @ Brazoswood - 7:00 p.m.  
Sat. 5/6 @ PHS - 1:00 p.m.  
Sat. 5/6 @ PHS - 3:30 p.m.  
(if needed)

**FRIENDSWOOD MUSTANGS vs Port Neches-Groves Indians**

All games at Baytown Sterling HS  
Game 1 - Fri. 5/5 - 7:00 p.m.  
Game 2 - Sat. 5/6 - 1:00 p.m.  
Game 3 - Sat. 5/5 - 30 minutes after Game 2  
(if needed)

**DAWSON EAGLES vs Clear Falls Knights**

Fri. 5/5 @ Clear Falls HS - 6:00 p.m.  
(One game playoff)



## STATE BOUND

Pearland's Madison Peters won the 3200 meters (10:42.73) for the gold medal and placed second at the regional track meet in the 1600 meters (5:01.65) for the silver medal. Peters advances to the Class 6A state track meet in Austin. Peters qualified in the same two events last year as a sophomore where she finished 6th in the 3200 and 7th in the 1600.

